Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-49 (CANCELED)

50.   (ORIGINAL) A method for automatically processing transactions between a buying company and a selling company, comprising the steps of :

(a) obtaining via a computer network purchase order data having at least one entry, the purchase order data including purchase order header information and purchase order detail information;

(b) obtaining via a computer network invoice data having at least one entry, the invoice data including invoice header information and invoice detail information;

(c) automatically comparing selected purchase order header information and corresponding selected invoice header information to identify a matched record having purchase order data and corresponding invoice data;

(d) comparing total cost of goods received from the matched record purchase order data and total cost of goods shipped from the matched record invoice data according to a predetermined tolerance;

(e) if the total costs are within the predetermined tolerance, then providing for

(f) 'payment of invoices corresponding to the matched record invoice data;

(g) if the total costs are not within the predetermined tolerance, then electronically comparing selected purchase order detail information and selected invoice detail information according to predetermined rules;

(h) if the selected information comparison satisfies the predetermined rules, then providing for payment of invoices corresponding to the selected invoice detail information; and

(i) if the selected information comparison does not satisfy the predetermined rules,

    (i) automatically notifying the buying company for resolution of purchase order data not matching invoice data; or

    (ii) automatically notifying the selling company for resolution of invoice data not matching purchase order data.

51.   (CANCELED)

52.   (CANCELED)

53.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, wherein the computer network used to obtain purchase order data is a local area network.

54.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, wherein the computer network used to obtain purchase order data is a wide area network.

55.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 54, wherein the wide area network is the Internet.

56.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, wherein the computer network used to obtain invoice data is a local area network.

57.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, wherein the computer network used to obtain invoice data is a wide area network.

58.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 57, wherein the wide area network is the Internet.

59.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, wherein the purchase order data is stored in a database.

60.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 59, wherein the database is a central database.

61.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, wherein the invoice data is stored in a database.

62.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 61, wherein the database is a central database.

63.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, wherein the purchase order data and the invoice data are stored in a database.

64.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 63, further comprising the step of providing for interaction with the database by at least one of the buying company or selling company.

65.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 64, wherein the step of providing for interaction with the database is performed using a network interface.

66.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 65, wherein the network interface comprises a web page.

67.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, wherein the purchase order header information comprises a purchase order number, a client identifier, a vendor identifier, and a purchase order date.

68.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 67, wherein the purchase order detail information comprises the purchase order header information and purchase order entries comprising a quantity ordered, an item identifier, a unit price, and a charge code.

69.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, wherein the invoice header information comprises an invoice number, a client identifier, a vendor identifier, and an invoice date.

70.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 69, wherein the invoice detail information comprises the invoice header information and at least one invoice entry comprising a quantity shipped, an item identifier, and an extended price.

71.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, wherein the step of automatically comparing selected purchase order data and corresponding selected invoice data is computer-implemented.

72.   (CANCELLED).

73.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 50, further comprising the step of facilitating the financing of accounts based upon the matched records.

74.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 73, wherein the facilitating step is the factoring of accounts receivable.

75.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-implemented method for processing transactions between a buying company and a selling company, comprising the steps of:

obtaining buying company transaction settlement data from a buying company, the transaction settlement data having at least one entry and comprising header information and detail information;

obtaining selling company transaction settlement data from a selling company, the transaction settlement data having at least one entry, and comprising header information and detail information;

comparing buying company transaction settlement data header information and selling company transaction settlement data header information to create a matched record;

determining, based upon a predetermined tolerance, whether to pay an amount claimed in the invoice.

76.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-implemented method of claim 75, further comprising the step of paying the amount claimed in the invoice if the amount claimed is at or within a limit set using the predetermined tolerance.

77.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-implemented method of claim 75, further comprising the step of matching buying company transaction settlement data detail information with selling company transaction settlement data detail information according to predetermined rules.

78.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-implemented method of claim 75, further comprising the step of paying the amount claimed in the invoice if the amount claimed is within a limit set using the predetermined tolerance.

79.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-implemented method of claim 75, further comprising the step of initiating a resolution workflow to resolve discrepancies outside a limit set using the predetermined tolerance.

Please add new claims:

80.   (New) The method of claim 50, wherein predetermined tolerance is expressed as one of the following: a percentage of the total cost, a percentage of an absolute dollar figure, or a combination of both.

81.   (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the predetermined rule comprises paying the lower of invoice cost and purchase order cost.

82.   (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the predetermined rule comprises paying the lower of invoice quantity and purchase order quantity.

83.   (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the predetermined rule comprises a dollar or percent tolerance amount to approve payment of the invoice or chargeback the difference.

84.   (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the predetermined rule comprises of making payment decisions at the invoice and purchase order line level, by comparing item, quantity, unit cost and extended costs of all lines and making payment decisions at the line level.

85.   (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the purchase order data includes the items and quantities of goods received.

86.   (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the predetermined tolerance is from a tolerance consideration table, wherein data in tolerance consideration table is predetermined data for a plurality of clients wherein at least one entry from one client is different from at least one other client.

87.   (New) A method for automatically processing transactions between a buying company and a selling company, the method comprising:

(a) obtaining via a computer network purchase order data having at least one entry, the purchase order data including receipt data, purchase order header information, and purchase order detail information;

(b) obtaining via a computer network invoice data having at least one entry, the invoice data including invoice header information and invoice detail information;

(c) automatically comparing selected purchase order data and corresponding selected invoice data to identify a matched record having purchase order data and corresponding invoice data;

(d) comparing total cost of goods received from the matched record purchase order data and total cost of goods shipped from the matched record invoice data according to a predetermined tolerance, wherein the predetermined tolerance is from a tolerance table containing data for a plurality of clients wherein at least one tolerance entry from one client is different from tolerance for at least one other client;

(e) if the total costs are within the predetermined tolerance, then providing for payment of invoices corresponding to the matched record invoice data;

(f) if the total costs are not within the predetermined tolerance, then electronically comparing selected purchase order detail information and selected invoice detail information according to predetermined rules;

(g) if the selected information comparison satisfies the predetermined rules, then providing for payment of invoices corresponding to the selected invoice detail information; and

(h) if the selected information comparison does not satisfy the predetermined rules,

(i) automatically notifying the buying company for resolution of purchase order data not matching invoice data; or

(ii) automatically notifying the selling company for resolution of invoice data not matching purchase order data.

88.   (New) The method of claim 87 further comprising (j) automatically notifying the selling company of trade related financial transactions including at least one of the following;

notifying of invoice payment timing;

notifying of invoice related deductions; or

notifying of returns, penalties, advertising, promotion, deductions and credits.

89.   (New) The method of claim 87 further comprising (k) using a web interface to provide tools to both the buying company and selling company to facilitate the financial settlement of any deduction, credit or other transactions;

90.   (New) The method of claim 87 further comprising (l) resolving of deductions by both the buyer and seller using systems that leverage same source data.

91.   (New) The method of claim 50, wherein predetermined tolerance is expressed as one of the following: a percentage of the total cost or an absolute dollar figure.